

SOPHIE BARCUS FOLK FESTIVAL

Something new in the annals of ethnic groups. It is not unusual for one folk dance group to invite another to present a program, but, to our knowledge, no one as yet presented a folk festival to a strictly nationality group whose audience is not even English speaking. Sophie Barcus tried it and the audience was thrilled no end with the presentation, showering compliments throughout the evening.

Mrs. Barcus is a very active women in the Lithuanian circles. She heads the Lithuanian Red Cross of Chicago and spends many hours with it, does all kinds of charitable deeds and also sponsors a daily Lithuanian language radio program. In the past years her annual program consisted of a "Vakaruska" (An Evening of Jollity) consisting of a playlet of horsing around and having a good time. This year she decided to go to another extreme. She divided the evening into two parts. The first part was a concert type of program with "name" artist who sang classic, operatic and folk songs. Antanina Dambrauskaite, a former Lithuanian Opera diva, Antanas Peskys, John Byanskas, noted Chicago musician and choir director, with his chorus Birute, Chicago's oldest among the Liths, covered the first part of the program which was rendered to the credit of their reputations.

Margaret MacDonald, playing the pipes, led on her wee Scots and opened the second half of the program with Shawn Trews, Sword Reel and Highland Reel. The Norwegian Leikaringen Heimhug followed, presenting Springer, Rheinlander for Three and Tre Karls Polka. Larry Golden directed the Square Dance group. The Mexicans were Chicago's outstanding Hernandez Trio and their children who did a total of five numbers: Son Michoacan, Fantasia Michoacana, Los Machetes, Jarabe Tapatio and Chiapanecas. The Lithuanian Ateitis closed the program with Prienu Suktute, Lenciugelis, Ozelis and Vestuviu. Over 90 per cent of the audience have never seen any of non-Lith dances, not even American Squares which manner of dancing was a revelation to them. They attributed folk dancing to any nationality but thought Americans to be devoid of such things, thinking they only fox-trotted and jitter-bugged. The groups danced excellently, as if for a very critical audience, and the audience was a receptive one, very appreciative and exuberant in their applause as the dancers were in their performance.

After the program, which ended at 6:30 p.m., there was an evening of dancing to two orchestras, upstairs which furnished mainly American ballroom dancing and downstairs which did only polkas and some folk. A waltz and a polka contest was also sponsored. The waltz winners were Bernadette Samas and Alfas Girsksis. Alfas is stationed at Ft. Sheridan and was on a week-end leave. The Polka (downstairs) was won by a 50 year old couple, Gentruda Banulis and Pranas Achas.

FOLK FESTIVAL ON DETROIT'S 250 ANNIVERSARY reported by Nicholas Michalak

Detroit's 250th anniversary was commemorated on January 27th with a huge folk festival sponsored by the International Institute of Detroit and held at the Crystal Ballroom of the Masonic Temple. It was also the 5th annual festival for the Institute. It was a bright, colorful and happy event, with hundreds of people, dressed in their gay native costumes, representing almost every nation. Those who had no costume dressed in their very best. A congenial spirit prevailed. By the end of the evening, little in dance variety remained to be done.

There were Schottisches, gavottes, tangos, kolos, two-steps, fox trots, square dances, assorted variations of waltzes and polkas. There was a dance for every taste and ability; old fashioned, modern, Viennese waltzes, Rye and Black Hawk.

At 8:00 P.M. the floor was cleared for the program. Chief Burning Sky and his American Indians, accompanied by an Indian maiden skillfully playing the drums, opened the program with a Welcome Dance. Next came the Scottish Highland dancers, complete with piper, kilts and tartans, flinging through their agile sword dances. Three little Irish colleens in Kelly green performed precisely an Irish hornpipe. Natasha Boskowitz, the only professional on the floor, represented Yugoslavia by dancing in Spanish fashion Lecuona's Malaguena with professional perfection (Am I reading it correctly? What happened to Yugoslavia? . . . VFB).

The three Baltic states were next on the program. First came the Estonians in colorful native costume, then five Latvian girls in gowns of red, blue and white with elegant head pieces who skipped through a nymph-like dance composed by their leader, Oswald Lemanis. The subtly haunting tune of the Lithuanian Malunas was heard in the hall no sooner the Latvian girls left the area. Nearly a score of spirited boys and girls came out into the middle of the floor and captured the audience with their flashing display of Malunas' figures which ended the floor show definitely on a high note.

The evening did not terminate with the end of the program. Now came a Grand March led by Governor Williams of Michigan, together with his wife, Nancy. Other notables in the grand march were: Mrs. Stark, who represented Mayor Cobo of Detroit; the British, French, Italian and Korean consuls; descendants of the earliest Detroit families; all of these and many others took their places in line and marched gaily. After the Grand March the orchestra continued playing dance music for the rest of the evening.

THE CLEVELAND FOLK FESTIVAL

On January 27-28, the Cleveland Press, under the direction of Mr. T. Andrica, sponsored its annual folk festival which was held in the Cleveland Music Hall. 25 nationality groups appeared in four performances. The Lithuanians were represented by two groups, the Ciurlionis Ensemble who appeared once on the 27th and the Vytis (Knights of Lithuania) who appeared twice during the 28th. The Ciurlionis group made a terrific hit with their presentation of dances and songs accompanied to the native and primitive instruments. They danced Blezdingele (The Swallows) and Malunas (The Mill). The Vytis organization presented a series of tableaux taken from the Lithuanian history, for which the script was read by Mr. T. Andrica. In general, all groups made an excellent showing, particularly the Ukrainians and Czechs.

Liudas Sagys reporting.

DUQUESNE U TAMBURITSAS IN CHICAGO

Members of the Duquesne University of Pittsburgh who belong to the famous Tamburitsa group of players of native instruments, singers and dancers of Yugoslav folk songs and dances, were on an informal visit in Chicago during February 24-25. They visited Yugoslavia during this past summer where they presented a series of concerts and this particular tour was a report on Yugoslavia through the medium of colored films which they took and a most interesting folk craft and costume exhibit covering every province of Yugoslavia. The scenes

of the Yugoslav folk dance festival was the most intriguing part of the film. The array of the colorful costumes from various regions made it truly a veritable flower garden of exquisite enchantment, and the bounce of their feet and body, so small and so constant, intrigued the onlooker.

After the showing of the film, a Kolo contest was held and a Kolo king and queen for the Chicago area were chosen: Madeleine Mudrovich as the queen and John Bukovich, the king. Among the eight finalists of "Viches" Abe Koengson was also counted. Abe is a New Yorker who, while on his visit to Chicago, attended faithfully all the international House folk dance sessions.

The Duquesne University Tamburitsa group will present their Chicago concert at the Civic Opera House on the afternoon of April 15th, where, among other things, they will perform the dances they learned in Yugoslavia on their trip.

A REPORT FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

by June Loesch

International folk dancing has finally appeared on television in Seattle. Just recently the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students presented a program over KING Broadcasting Station. Mrs. Raymond Allen, wife of the President of the University of Washington which is in Seattle, is Chairman of the Foundation and was Mistress of Ceremonies of the program. The program included dances and skits performed by foreign students from the University. Leslie Darbyshire from Britain gave a rendition of "Little Albert and the Lion" in thick Lancashire brouge. The well-known Philippine bamboo dance was performed by Philippine students Aida Excutan and Josefina Corsilles and Francis Charbonnier and Paul Liu of France and China, respectively. Soon Sook Hong and Ohton won also presented video viewers with "An Intimate Glimpse Into a Korean Family", followed by "Song of India" by Laveen Kanal.

The anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the Scottish farmer's son who became one of the world's great poets, was observed at Seattle's 63rd annual Burns Concert, on Saturday, January 27th. The Caledonian and St. Andrews Society, Daughters of Scotia and Clan MacKenzie sponsored the concert, oldest in Seattle. The Chairman was Jack McWalter, and the program opened with the Seattle Pipe Band. Malcolm Rankin delivered an eulogy on Burns. There were instrumental selections, and eight dancers appeared from the Seattle Highland Dancing Society, Joanne Hansen, Barbara Allen, Linnea Beffa, Betty Von Rotz, Patricia Martin, Polly Norem, Virgie Smead and Alice Friebling. There was Scottish country dancing by the audience at the conclusion of the program.

Performing the dances of her native Israel, the Bible and the Near East, Naomi Aleh-Leaf offered a wide selection and variety of moods during her appearance at the university of Washington, Thursday evening, January 25th. Miss Aleh-Leaf is the first exponent of Jewish dances to appear in the area. Outstanding on her program was "Awake O Zion" based on a verse from Isaiah, and to this Miss Aleh-Leaf chanted her own accompaniment in a powerful voice. She is a frequent performer on television, in motion pictures and for the museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Ted and Kathy Morgan of the Highline Hoedowners have opened the first public international dance in Seattle. They are meeting every other Saturday night at the Burien Field House. This type of program is a big

step to take in an area of predominately American square dancers, but they hope through word of mouth, good publicity and a worth-while program to interest many others.

Madelynne Greene, director of the Festival Workshop in San Francisco, was in Seattle for three days teaching at the University of Washington and under the co-sponsorship of the Highline Hoedowners, International Folk Arts, Scandia Club and the Welkin Ringers. She also held a class in elementary folk dancing under the auspices of the Puget Sound Council of the Washington Folk Dance Federation. Traveling with Madelynne Greene was Ruth Prager, former costume editor of Let's Dance magazine. She had with her a number of colored slides of some of her very beautiful costumes which were made by DP's in the camps where she had worked in Germany. She also brought with her an apron with very intricate cross-stitch Ukrainian embroidery, as well as patterns for the same. It looks as if we'll all be busy with our needlework for quite sometime now, as many who saw the lovely embroidery wanted to try their hands at it too.

Israeli folk dancing was featured at the all-city Jewish youth and young adult rally held at the Temple Center on January 28th. The rally was under the sponsorship of the Seattle Jewish Youth Council, coordinating group for 28 local Jewish youth organizations. Carol Tatt and Philip Flash were rally co-chairmen. Their assistants were Ruth Korman, dancing chairman; Stella Chemaria, choral chairma, and Ilving Romey publicity. Dancers included Melvin Pincus, Ruth Korman, Carol Tatt and Philip Flash.

The Chinese community here celebrated their Chinese New Year's Eve according to the old Chinese calendar on February 5th. The China Club had a nine-course dinner. The Chinese Musical Club played for the traditional Chinese dances including Lantern Street, Bow, Sword and Rod and Chinese ballet. The event was also celebrated with a Chinese Lion Dance.

The Washington State Folk Dance Federation has set May 19, 1951 and Wentachee, Washington as the date and place for Annual State Festival. All dancers are cordially invited and full program details will be sent later.



Srupsa-Dauzvardis

If it is not the draft it is "them" women Ateitis is losing to its males. The draft has seven of their male members, now, Peter Dauzvardis, who will be remembered for his comic interpretations of the Goat Dances (Ozelis) which he and Vince Samoska always star, will be the goat on the altar of marriage. However, we don't mind . . . for many reasons . . . he is getting one of the sweetest gals of the Lithuanian colony and the secretary of ATEITIS folk dance group. Dolores Srupsa is a "Beaut" and will be remembered as the cover girl of VILTIS of May-June 1950, pretty as a doll and active. A graduate of St. Casimir's academy she belonged to ATEITIS dancers and VYTIS Singing Choir. Petras Vytautas Dauzvardis is the elder son of the Lithuanian consul in Chicago, a Naval veteran and also belongs to the Naval Reserves. The wedding will take place on May 5th. Ilgiausiu ir Laimingiausiu Metu! (While, "po us ones" will have to search for a new goat.)